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AMENDMENT OF THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:

--In a planar light illumination and imaging (PLIIM) system, a planar light illumination module (PLIM) of compact construction produces a planar laser illumination beam (PLIB) which emanates substantially within a single plane along the direction of beam propagation towards an object to be optically illuminated and imaged. The PLIM comprises a module housing which has an axial extent, first and second end portions, a central bore formed along the axial extent, and a recess integrally formed in the second end portion. A visible laser diode (VLD) is mounted along the bore at the first end portion of the module housing, for producing a laser beam generally along the axial extent. A focusing lens is mounted along the bore between the first and second end portions, for focusing the laser beam to a predetermined focal point. A laser beam expansion element is mounted within the recess at the second end portion of the module housing, and expanding the laser beam along a predetermined direction and producing a substantially planar laser illumination beam from the beam expansion component.--

REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.121

As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean version of the first paragraph of Page 1 is as follows:

This is a Continuation of copending U.S. Application No. 09/721,885 filed November 24, 2000, which is a Continuation-in-Part of copending Application Serial No. 09/327,756 filed June 7, 1999, and PCT/US00/15624 filed June 7, 2000, published as WO 00/75856 A1; each said application being commonly owned by Assignee, Metrologic Instruments, Inc., of Blackwood, New Jersey, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Also as required under C.F.R. 1.121, the amended Abstract as amended is as follows:

In a planar light illumination and imaging (PLIIM) system, a planar light illumination module (PLIM) of compact construction produces a planar laser illumination beam (PLIB) which emanates substantially within a single plane along the direction of beam propagation towards an object to be optically illuminated and imaged. The PLIM comprises a module housing which has an axial extent, first and second end portions, a central bore formed along the axial extent, and a recess integrally formed in the second end portion. A visible laser diode (VLD) is mounted along the bore at the first end portion of the module housing, for producing a laser beam generally along the axial extent. A focusing lens is mounted along the bore between the first and second end portions, for focusing the laser beam to a predetermined focal point. A laser beam expansion element is mounted within the recess at the second end portion of the module housing, and expanding the laser beam along a predetermined direction and producing a substantially planar laser illumination beam from the beam expansion component.